

BLACK SCIENCE

19

RICK REMENDER
MATTEO SCALERA
MORENO DINISIO



GODWORLD • PART 3 OF 5

THE STORY SO FAR...

When Grant McKay, head of Anarchist League of Scientists, completed the Pillar Project, a device capable of punching through the barriers of reality and travel to alternate dimensions, he hoped this accomplishment would make up for a lifetime of regret and mistakes. He was wrong...

On its maiden voyage, the Pillar malfunctioned, jumping at random intervals, sending Grant, his team, and his two children spiraling through the Eververse, stranded in a chaotic maelstrom of infinitely potential alternate worlds.

Through countless adventures and unfathomable dangers Grant tried to keep his children safe and the team together, but it was all for naught. In one final cataclysmic jump, he lost everything. His kids vanished in a flash of light as the Pillar burst into pieces, stranding him on a strange world, alone.

Three years now Grant has been attempting to piece together the wreckage of his past, but something is wrong. He can't remember who he is, where he came from, what he's meant to do now.

Grant embarks on a quest to gain answers, which takes him deep into his own heart, and the center of the Godworld...

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BLACK SCIENCE created by Rick Remender & Matteo Scalera



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IN LIFE,
YOU'RE EITHER
CLIMBING OR
FALLING.

THERE'S
NO IN-
BETWEEN.



YOU GET UP IN THE MORNING, AND YOU MAKE UP YOUR MIND TO BUILD SOMETHING THAT DAY, OR YOU DON'T AND YOU LEAVE BEHIND NOTHING.

BRINGING ME OUT HERE IS A WASTE OF TIME, DAD—I'LL NEVER END UP DOING THIS.

I'M GOING TO BUILD IMPORTANT THINGS.

WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN MAKING SOMEONE'S HOME, BUDDY?

A DOZEN FAMILIES WILL LIVE THEIR LIVES IN THIS BUILDING.

IF YOU GET TOO BIG YOU LOSE SIGHT OF THE REALLY IMPORTANT STUFF.

AND THAT TENDS TO BE THE SMALL THINGS.

A CLICHÉ, BUT IT'S TRUE.

HOW IS THIS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ME BEING A KID AND HAVING FUN?

EVERY SATURDAY MORNING, WHEN ALL MY FRIENDS ARE PLAYING, YOU FORCE ME TO COME WORK WITH YOU.

AND WHY DO I DO IT?

BECAUSE YOU WANT EVERYONE'S LIFE TO BE AS MISERABLE AS YOURS.

BECAUSE CONSTRUCTION IS MY TRADE, SON.

THAT AND MY TIME ARE ALL I HAVE TO OFFER YOU.

YOU MIGHT NEVER USE IT. HELL, I DUNNO.

YOU MIGHT SPEND YOUR LIFE HATING ME FOR WASTING YOUR SATURDAYS—







I NEEDED
YOU--DID YOU
EVER CONSIDER
WHAT LEAVING
WOULD DO TO
ME?



DID YOU
EVEN
THINK--

C'MON
NOW, GET
IN CLOSE!



THE
HELL--?!

THE WORLD
IS FALLING TO
ENVIRONMENTAL
CRISIS--



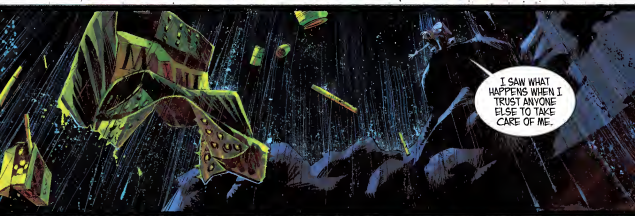
--AND THIS
IS THE CREW
THAT FOUND A
SOLUTION!

SMILE! THIS
PICTURE IS
GOING TO BE
FAMOUS
ONE DAY.

HURRY UP
AND TAKE IT,
ALEXANDER--



--LET THE
FUTURE DECIDE
WHAT OUR
LEGACY IS.





SHUT
UP!

KRSHH



SHE DID
A NUMBER
ON YOU,
BABY.



REBECCA?

ALL YOU WANTED
WAS TO PROVE
HER WRONG.

TO DO SO
MUCH GOOD,
YOU'D BE
LOVED BY
EVERYONE.

I WAS ONLY
TRYING TO
HELP YOU!



HELP ME,
GRANT!
PLEASE--!

I NEVER
PLANNED
ON HURTING
ANYONE!

I ONLY
WANTED TO
SEE MY
BROTHER
AGAIN!



GHRASH!

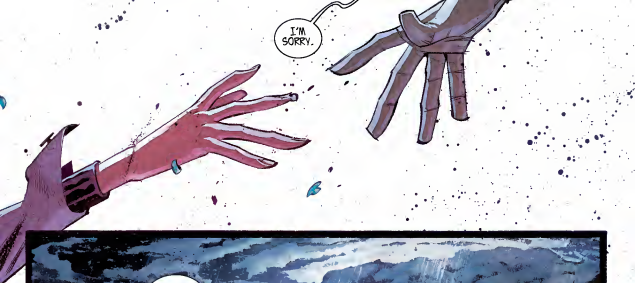
I-I CAN'T
PULL YOU
UP--



THEN
FALL WITH
ME!

WE CAN
BE TOGETHER,
AWAY FROM
THEIR JUDGMENTS!





I'M SORRY.



I WON'T HIDE ANYMORE.

ONCE AND FOR--



FNCHH



YHRA--!

I KNOW YOU WANTED 'STAR WARS' TOYS, GRANT...



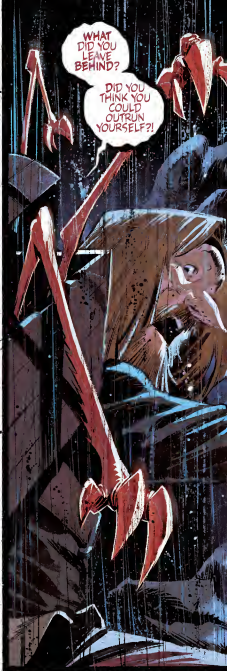
...BUT WHEN YOU SEE THE GOOD THIS LITTLE BIRTHHOUSE DOES...



...YOU'LL BE GLAD FOR THIS TOOLSET.

I LOVE YOUR IMAGINATION, BUT IMAGINATION IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP.

THESE WILL HELP YOU MAKE YOUR DREAMS A REALITY...



--FROM BEING
A HORRIBLE
LITTLE
MONSTER!

YOU MESS UP
EVERYTHING YOU
TOUCH AND HURT
EVERYONE
AROUND YOU!

YOU TELL A
KID THEY ARE
SOMETHING
LONG ENOUGH,
AND THEY'LL
BECOME IT.

BEEN
FAKING IT
FOR SO
LONG.

WAITING
FOR SOMEONE
TO SAVE ME.

I'M NOT
HIDING
ANYMORE!

I'M
DONE!

SKREEE--!

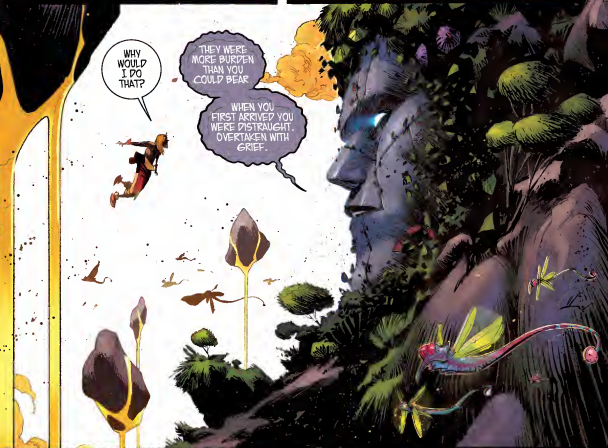
DONE WORKING MY
LIFE AWAY TO PROVE
I'M NOT WHAT THEY
THINK I AM.

DONE LIVING
WITH ALL THIS
FUCKING
DAMAGE.

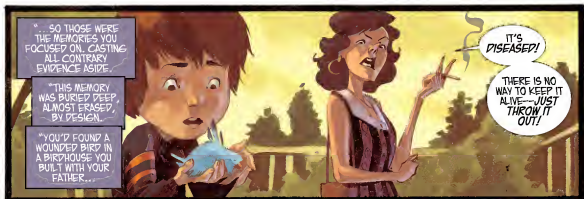
FOR THE FIRST TIME
IN MY LIFE I'M GOING
IN EYES WIDE
OPEN--

--I'M
GOING TO
FACE IT.









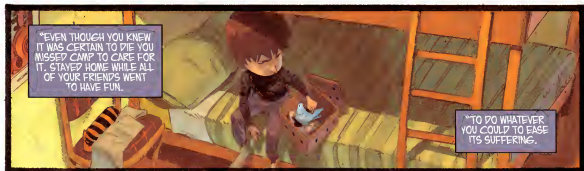
"SO THOSE WERE THE MEMORIES YOU FOCUSED ON, CASTING ALL CONTRARY EVIDENCE ASIDE."

"THIS MEMORY WAS BURIED DEEP, ALMOST ERASED, BY DESIGN."

"YOU'D FOUND A WOUNDED BIRD IN A BIRDBOUSE YOU BUILT WITH YOUR FATHER."

IT'S DISEASED!

THERE IS NO WAY TO KEEP IT ALIVE—JUST THROW IT OUT!



"EVEN THOUGH YOU KNEW IT WAS CERTAIN TO DIE YOU MISSED CAMP TO CARE FOR IT. STAYED HOME WHILE ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS WENT TO HAVE FUN."

"TO DO WHATEVER YOU COULD TO EASE ITS SUFFERING."



THAT IS WHO YOU ARE

THAT CHOICE.

I... I DON'T REMEMBER.



DO YOU WANT TO?

YOU CAN STAY HERE.

LIVING A NEW LIFE FREE OF EVERYTHING YOU WERE.

OR I CAN GIVE IT ALL BACK.



ARE YOU WORTH SAVING?



CAN YOU
HELP ME FIX
IT ALL?

I CAN
ONLY GIVE
YOU THE
KEY.



BUT YOU
MUST TURN
IT



IF CONSCIOUSNESS
IS A SOIL—WHAT ENERGY
IS UNIQUELY CREATED
BY THE ELEMENT
OF LIFE?



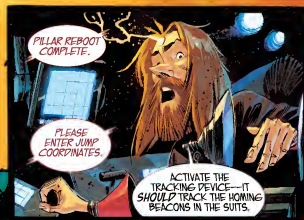
WHAT IS
YOUR GIFT
TO THE
COSMIC
ALL?

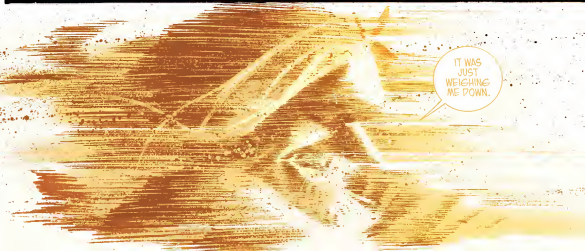
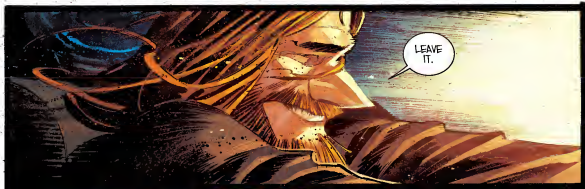
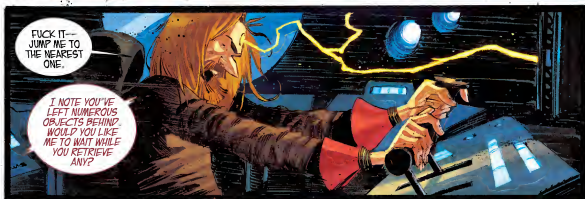
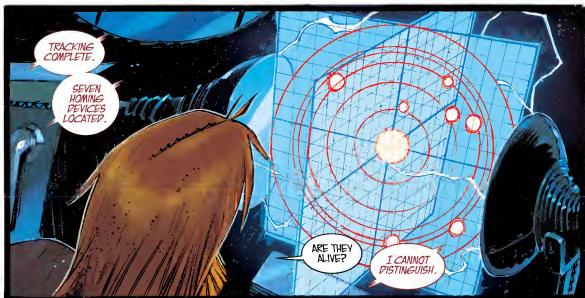


AS TREES
PRODUCE
OXYGEN FOR
LIFE...









TO BE CONTINUED...

FROM PILLAR TO POST



RR - Rise, Grant McKay—RISE! Witness the true birth of our hero. Finally tree of the rot in his guts, free to set his things right. But, of course, Grant's new mindset is destined to be tested. His team, and his kids, have been scattered across the Eververse and now it falls on his shoulders to collect the survivors and make it home. Let's do some letters.

Rick,

I thought you might like to see the BLACK SCIENCE Shaman doll that I sewed for my son. I try to keep him from chewing on comic books so I thought he needed something of his own for our weekly trips to Escape Hatch Books in Jaffrey, New Hampshire.

My wife and I have a small, organic vegetable farm in Southern New Hampshire. Our growing season is coming to an end and I welcome the time for quiet, winter activities like reading and making toys. We hire one or two interns every summer and it's always my hope that we'll get someone who wants to talk about comics while we weed long beds of carrots. Maybe a *Tokyo Ghost* fan that wants a real-world break from over exposure/dependence on digital technologies. Or a *Low* fan who wants to put hard work towards our optimistic mission.

My son is only nine months old now but I'm already looking forward to when he starts reading through my long boxes. I know it will be really great when he discovers your books and I get to go through them all over again.

Thank you,
Craig

RR - Man, that sounds like some kind of perfect situation. You're literally living the life I dream of. I've grown so far away from anything natural or real. Anyway, it's nice to know that you're enjoying the comics. The doll is incredible!

Rick -

Time and time again, your work has reached me personally. BLACK SCIENCE has been an infinite onion of metaphor, intensity, awesome parallel universe science crap, and incredible personal touch. (The artwork is so fitting, by the way.)

I've only written in once before, and it wasn't very personal or anything. So my writing a verbose letter now should be indicative of how deeply I need to tell you this.

Issue 18 is fucking unsurpassable for me.

Thank you thank you thank you THANK YOU for giving a picture perfect metaphor for guilt and pain and repression that lives inside those of us who struggle with so much in our hearts and in our heads. I've struggled with anxiety and depression and guilt and I'm finally confronting all that shit the last few years and it's so comforting to see that pain monster in the panels of BLACK SCIENCE. And then to have Brian McKay put a hand on Grant's shoulder and assure him that Grant deserves the apology and not the other way around.

I feel like you get it. You really get it. And I wanted to thank you for putting that out into the world for people to read and therein find comfort and grace and self-forgiveness.

I love this book. It means a lot to me. I'll follow Grant to the ends of the multiverse and back and again. Thank you.

RR - Thank you for taking the time to write us, Caitlyn. One of the best parts of this job is hearing from people who personally identify with aspects of it, especially someone who finds authenticity in the character's voices. I take little bits and pieces of myself, and people I know, and try and shine them through the lens of the various characters. Grant is all of the terrible mistakes I made, managed to avoid, or feared making and showing the full depth of his motivations is something I've been eager to do for a while. His history helps to define his perspective and his choices, and hopefully helps sell the idea that we never know what somebody has been through, we only ever see the damage. And all too often we write people off because of that damage without ever investigating why it's there. A lot of the time in life when I finally do find out the root of someone's damage it helps me understand, forgive, and love him or her.

I've been reading BLACK SCIENCE since it came out. It's my favorite comic!

I've been a little busy, so I haven't had a lot of time to read, but I've recently picked up some issues of *Low* and *Tokyo Ghost*, knowing they'll be awesome and I haven't been disappointed.

I was wondering--and this might be a lot to ask, but I guess it doesn't hurt--if you might put up a few scripts from BLACK SCIENCE, or *Low*, or *Tokyo Ghost* on your website so I, and anyone else, can compare them to the released issues?

You see, I'm trying to get a feel for how comic scripts are written and how they compare to the final product. I'll admit, there're plenty of scripts online, but you're

my favorite comic writer.

Anyway, if for some reason you don't like this request, it's all good. Keep up the good work!

-James

RR - Thank you for supporting the book, James, and for branching out into my other titles. They all scratch different itches and they all have tremendous art, I hope you enjoy them. We will be publishing the entire script for BLACK SCIENCE number one in the back of the hardcover collection coming out in February. It I find some time to throw some others up on my website I will.

RR and team,

Gotta tell you boys I love BLACK SCIENCE, but I also love the SF Giants. So, important question to you guys: Why is Brian McKay a Giants fan?

Anyways, I come from a family that ended like Grant and Brian's did (minus the suicide), and I am glad to see you guys building a history for Grant that rings true. Keep on rollin' guys!

From Wyoming to Godworld

Peace,
Brayden

RR - Grant was raised in Pacifica, California, just south of San Francisco over the hill from Daly City. I spent a number of years living there myself and wanted to utilize the location, which we will get into more later. So that explains the loyalty to the San Francisco Giants organization. We were only told a small piece of Grant's history. In future issues were going to cover his college years, when he met a young girl named Sara who was dating a near cliché-level Ivy League asshole named Kadir. The college years stuff has been outlined since before I started the series; hopefully we will be able to get to it soon. But there is so much going on in Grant's quest to relocate his kids and his crew that it might not be for a bit.

That's it for this month. Hope to see you in 30 days for the fresh, new adventures of Grant McKay.

- Rick



CALLING ALL DIMENSIONAUTS!

Send comments, questions and distress signals to
WriteRemender@gmail.com! Mark letters "OK to print".



Custom BLACK SCIENCE Shaman Doll, Created by this li'l dude's Dad, Craig (New Hampshire).

TRANSMISSIONS FROM A BASEMENT

'Tis the holiday season as I write this, and while I find the merriment part a bit unnatural, I really like the idea of good will toward man. But since that's not likely to happen on any meaningful scale, ever, how about we wallow in the other tenet of the holidays: *appreciation*.

Now, I could sit here in my troglodyte's basement writing out all the tons of shit in my life that I'm grateful for, my wife and kids, my friends and family, my amazing collaborators and publisher, but that would bore the nog right out of you, so how about we skip it get to what really matters: *you*.

I appreciate you. We all do. Not for any of your charitable contributions this year, or how many times you visited Nana in the home, or your SAT score or the big win you had in fantasy football (even participating in this dingbat jive loses you a few points with Santa), we appreciate you for coming to us with money in exchange for entertainment. Crass, right? Give me a second, because underneath is the beating heart of a levitating reindeer.

Paying cash money is a sacred trust that we don't take lightly. Money is hard to get. People have to do all kinds of terrible business to get it. We can't make comics without it. The fact you're here with us, and paid admission not once, but monthly, that's a Christmas miracle of jumbo magic. I take it to mean you connect with what we're doing and that you're entertained by our capering. That is what we're all grateful for. Sincerely. We couldn't do it otherwise.

Very few people in my generation of comic creators had any overnight success or, really, any audience for many years. When I started self-publishing my first comics in 1997 the industry was busted. The big boom of the early 90s had come and gone, and the speculators left and so did the readers because the comics, for the most part, were bad. We started doing this in a broken and dying industry where there were few to no creator-owned success stories. But my definition of success wasn't just to have readers; it was to make personal comics, which we owned, in multiple genres with no constraints. To find a wider audience than just the loyal superhero crew. We didn't get into it to get rich, but we did need to make a living.

After years of making creator-owned books with no one reading them, I was pretty broken down mentally. I threw up my hands and joined the big circus, the tent with all the colorful characters and the Big Top and the spotlight--the place with the crowd out front. It was good for my writing, a learned a ton, but that big circus is a story for another time.

After all these years, you finally came looking for new kinds of comics. You made it possible for us to make our own freak tent, producing the kinds of books we got into comics to make, with the people we want to make them with, exactly how we want to make them. You made our dreams come true. We appreciate you and we'll continue to work hard to make sure we give you our best in every book we put out.

As a gift for you we had Frenchman super genius Bengal do up a big print with the characters from LOW, TOKYO GHOST, FEAR AGENT, STRANGE GIRL, DEADLY CLASS, and BLACK SCIENCE. We'll eventually get these prints out for sale, but for now you can enjoy its majesty on the following spread. And enjoy the fan art on the facing page here.

Have a great 2016!
- Rick



BLACK SCIENCE
ISSUE #19



DEADLY CLASS
ISSUE #17



TOKYO GHOST
ISSUE #4



LOW
VOLUME 2

OUT
NOW



Art by **Corey Hall**

Art by **Tom Valez**



Art by **Elan Chan**

FAN ART

HAPPY 2016!



BLACK SCIENCE™ Rick Remender & Matteo Scalera, DEADLY CLASS™ Remender & Wes Craig, FEAR AGENT™ Remender & Tony Moore,
LOW™ Remender & Toccini, STRANGE GIRL™ Remender & Eric Nguyen, TOKYO GHOST™ Remender & Sean Murphy

Art by BENGAL

NEXT MONTH

BLACK SCIENCE

20

RICK REMENDER
MATTEO SCALERA
MORENO DINISIO



\$3.50



GODWORLD • PART 4 OF 5

BLACK SCIENCE



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RATED M / MATURE